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useless and the question raised, "What good does it do the young men to know in which of the various editions a misprint occurs?" But why should this textual comment be put into an "appendix" at all, except to show that it is not intended for the "young men," but for teachers and highly critical students? Whenever a textual question occurs which *does* need attention from the ordinary learner, a reference to the appendix will be found in the notes. Besides, what this appendix offers is much more than a collation of misprints; it at least aims to give a critical account of the text of GOETHE'S "Tasso." But I am told that "in a text for class use the *Goethekenner* least of all needs this." So? I am aware that there are *Goethekenner* who think it pedantic to care whether their *textus receptus* be GOETHE, or GÖTTLING, or DÜNTZER, or some anonymous printer. But for myself, I do care, and I think we all ought to care; although I should never work myself into a passion about the matter, particularly in the class-room. It seems to me that since BERNAYS let in the light upon the real character of much that passes for the text of GOETHE, no editor of the poet has a right to treat these textual matters as unimportant. They are hardly less important for GOETHE than for SOPHOCLES or SHAKESPEARE.

5. You declare the "innovations which the editor proposes and carries through in the text" to be only a "step toward the subjective license of English writers in matters of punctuation." But *I* have introduced no innovations. My punctuation is like that of the new Weimar 'Goethe' now coming out; that is, it is the punctuation of GOETHE himself as presented in the *Ausgabe letzter Hand*, with an occasional error or inconsistency (not all of them, I fear) corrected.

Yours respectfully,

CALVIN THOMAS.

University of Michigan.

"KING'S CRUSE."

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—MACMASTER, in the second volume of his 'History of the People of the United States,' p. 5, writes "Every bully grew a long thumb-

nail or finger-nail for that very purpose [to gouge], and when he had his opponent down would surely use it, unless the unfortunate man cried out 'King's cruse,' or enough." This phrase "King's cruse" seems to be a mispronunciation of "King's truce,"—see DEKKAR'S 'Honest Whore,' scene vi, where Matheo says to Bellafront: "King's truce: come, I'll hasten the supper to have him but laugh." I have sought in vain for the origin of this old phrase, variously pronounced in various localities: King's cruse, King's truce, King's 'scuse (excuse), King's ex (short for excuse), and beg any student who may have hit on it, to publish an explanation for the benefit of some of us who are still in ignorance.

F. C. WOODWARD.

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"ER FÜHLT SICH EIN(EN) MANN."

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—Apropos of *er fühlt sich ein(en) Mann*, mentioned in your January issue, col. 61, it may be remarked that two accusatives are the regular construction after *fühlen*. The nominative is an innovation. See SANDERS; GRIMM, iv, p. 413,6.; BRANDT'S 'Grammar,' §§ 201, 202.

H. C. G. BRANDT.

Hamilton College.

BRIEF MENTION.

A very pronounced activity in the study of the mediæval drama has followed the publication of Miss Toulmin Smith's excellent edition of the 'York Mystery Plays' (1885). Monographs are now appearing whereby valuable details are contributed to a subject too commonly treated with much of hasty generalization. It is a pleasure to notice that an American scholar has also made a contribution to the growing fund. PROFESSOR FRANCIS H. STODDARD has published, as Library Bulletin No. 8 of the University of California, a carefully prepared bibliography of the subject, which he entitles: "References for students of Miracle Plays and Mysteries." This bibliography, as is implied in the title, is not confined to English plays of the mediæval type,

but embraces the subject in its entire European relations. It is therefore heartily commended, as an invaluable help, to all who wish to pursue the subject, whether in its French, Italian, Spanish, German or English departments.

In the same series of Library Bulletins (No. 10) PROFESSOR A. S. COOK gives us an interesting note on "Cardinal Guala and the Vercelli Book." The evidence in favor of the theory that the Anglo-Saxon Vercelli MS. was brought to Italy by Cardinal Guala-Bicchieri is reviewed, and new facts and considerations are adduced in its support. PROFESSOR COOK succeeds in raising this hypothesis to so high a degree of probability, that we are compelled to accept it as preferable to the mere negation of those who have hitherto rejected it. This monograph treats of the destiny of one of the most famous of Anglo-Saxon manuscripts, having, besides, a particular interest for the student of the Anglo-Saxon poem *Andreas*; and we are requested to say that, until his supply has been exhausted, PROFESSOR COOK will be pleased to send a copy of it to any student of English who may communicate his address.

Of great assistance to the student of French literature is the first volume of the 'Manuel d'ancien français' by GASTON PARIS ('La Littérature française au moyen âge'; Hachette. 292 pp. 2 fr. 50). The essential part of the material had already been given in lectures at the *École des hautes études*. Now enlarged and brought down to date, it does not claim to present any new discoveries, but rather to furnish the long-needed manual of French literary history from the origins of the Epic down to the beginning of a new epoch with the ascent of the Valois to the royal throne (1327). In the Introduction (pp. 1-32), M. PARIS examines the various races and tongues which combined to form the French nation and language, and reviews suggestively the religious, social and intellectual surroundings of the Middle Ages. The subject-matter proper is classed under two general divisions, which in many instances encroach on each other, namely, *Littérature profane* and *Littérature religieuse*. Both are further subdivided into the ordinary classes of Narrative,

Didactic, Lyric and Dramatic literature. In the first division, under the head of narrative literature (pp. 33-142), M. PARIS includes the various forms of the epic, with analyses of 'Roland,' the cycle of Garin de Montglane and the Breton cycle, the fableaux, the 'Roman de Renard' and the productions in the field of history. Under didactic (pp. 143-172) he discusses the scientific, moral, satirical and descriptive works, and pays especial attention to the 'Roman de la Rose.' A particularly interesting division is that of the lyric (pp. 173-188), under the captions of *Poésie lyrique purement française* and *Poésie lyrique d'origine provençale*. The chapter on the secular drama (pp. 189-191) treats wholly of comedy.

A much less agreeable task is the study of the religious literature of the Middle Ages, curious though it may be from many points of view. Under the head of religious narrative (pp. 197-220), M. PARIS groups the translations of the Old and New Testaments, the legends of the Virgin and Saints, and the tales intended to edify. Dogmatic and hortatory compositions make up the body of the didactic (pp. 221-230), while translations of the 'Psalms,' and hymns to the Virgin, form a large part of the scanty religious lyric (pp. 231-234). The chapter on the religious drama (pp. 235-243), dealing with the Mysteries and Miracles, closes the historical part of the work. To encourage further research and to aid scientific work, M. PARIS has appended to the text an important bibliography (pp. 245-273), which in turn is followed by a detailed alphabetical index. Few writers possess the happy faculty of uniting conciseness with clearness as does M. PARIS, and after a study of these chapters, crowded with facts and full of suggestive hints, one is not surprised to find in the index reference to upwards of twelve hundred subjects which have been mentioned or discussed in the brief pages of this valuable manual.

Arkiv för Nordisk Filologi, utgivet genom AXEL KOCK. Femte Bandet. Ny Följd. Första Bandet, Lund, 1888.—The opening article in this number of the *Arkiv* is by SOPHUS BUGGE, and is entitled "Iduns Ober." In it the author seeks to explain the origin of the northern myth in the forms existing in southern Europe. The editor contributes two phonetic

articles. The first, "Ett par undersökningar i fornordisk ljudlära," treats of the transition from *va* to (*v*)*ö* before *u*, and of strong preterites formed by analogy, and the change of *ū* to *ō*. The second article is entitled "Bidrag till forndansk ljudlära," and touches upon several changes and losses, mainly in the vowels. K. MAURER has an interesting study of the word *vígslóði*, concerning which lexicographers have so widely differed. E. MOGK discusses, in a short article, the word *dróttkvett*. The closing article, by M. LORENZEN, is entitled "Nyfundne fragmenter af en codex af Magnus Erikssons landslag."—Part two of the same volume opens with an article by HJ FALK, entitled "Oldnorske Ordforklaringer," in which several disputed etymologies are discussed. SOPHUS BUGGE, in an article entitled "Folkenavnet Daner" traces the origin of *Daner* through the Irish *duine* to the Greek *χθόνιοι*; very properly adding, however, that his suggestion is not given as conclusive. E. SIEVERS contributes a number of "Nordische Kleinigkeiten," the longest and most interesting of which discusses the proper name *Sigurðr*, comparing it with *Sigræðr*. "Om uttalet av *ei*, *au* ock *ey* i äldre isländska," by LUDVIG LARSSON, follows. "Bidrag till kritiken af Bandamanna sagas text," by GUSTAV CEDERSCHÖLD, describes a hitherto unnoticed fragment of a parchment MS. of the above named saga. ESAIAS TEGNÉR discusses the interesting question of the German influence on Swedish, and K. H. KARLSSON writes on the dialectic change of final *a* > *o* in old Swedish words with short root. HUGO GERING'S 'Glossar zu d. Liedern d. Edda' is reviewed by WILHELM RANISCH, and the number concludes with a bibliography for 1885 and 1886, by E. H. LIND.

The twenty-second annual Session of the California Teachers' Association was held at Sacramento, December 26, 27, 28 and 29 (1888). Professor ALBERT S. COOK, the presiding officer, delivered the annual address at the afternoon session of the second day.

JULES SIMON'S pleasing work, 'Victor Cousin,' has just appeared as the fourth number of the *Great French Writers'* series, translated by PROFESSOR MELVILLE B. ANDERSON and MR. EDWARD PLAYFAIR ANDERSON (cf.

MOD. LANG. NOTES, iii, 263). In its new dress, this interesting volume should find a wide circle of English readers. (Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co.). Price, \$1.00.

An important union of forces has taken place between the *Political Science Quarterly* and the *New Princeton Review*, the latter journal having been merged into the former (Boston: Ginn & Co.). PROFESSOR SLOANE, editor of the *New Princeton Review*, will be associated in future with the work of the new consolidated quarterly.

PERSONAL.

From a former contributor to MOD. LANG. NOTES, we learn that the following Americans are at present working in modern languages at the University of Strasburg:—*English*: ALBERT H. TOLMAN of Ripon College, Williams, 1877; JAMES D. BRUCE, University of Virginia, 1884. *Romance Languages*: CHARLES H. KINNE, Brown University, 1879; G. A. RUYTER, Cornell University, 1888.

DR. H. LOGEMAN, of Harlem (Holland), whose name will appear in the next issue of NOTES, has just been appointed to a professorship in the University of Ghent, Belgium.

DR. RICHARD OTTO, of Munich, well known to our readers through his contributions to NOTES, is preparing an edition of MAIRET'S 'Silvanire,' with the author's important preface, for PROFESSOR CARL VOLLMÖLLER'S *Sammlung französischer Neudrucke*. An introductory essay on the history of the "three unities" will accompany the work.

OBITUARY.

In July of last year, A. LARSEN died suddenly at Copenhagen, Denmark. Although by profession a translator, MR. LARSEN owes his reputation as a scholar to his Dano-Norwegian-English Dictionary, the first edition of which appeared in 1881 and made an immediate success. For some time this book had been out of print, and a second edition, enlarged and rewritten, was published last year, only a short time before its author's death. MR. LARSEN was a man of retiring habits, and though already of middle age and one of the first English scholars in Denmark, his talents received no public acknowledgement. He was the translator of works from English, German, and French, and showed in these as in all his efforts great conscientiousness and precision. His death is a loss to Denmark and will be regretted by all persons interested in the study of the Danish language.